

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

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**AGENDA ITEM #8**

May 10, 1999

To: Delta Protection Commission  
From: Lori Clamurro, Delta Protection Commission Staff  
Re: Category III Ecosystem Restoration Projects Tracking Memo

Since 1995, restoration projects aimed at improving the quality of the Delta environment have been funded. The purpose has been specifically to implement "non-flow" related actions, also called Category III projects, to restore and enhance habitat and species populations. The term Category III comes from the State Water Resources Control Board's adopted Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta, and Category III measures are included as part of the Bay-Delta Accord of 1994. As part of this agreement, funding for Category III projects has been provided by water users such as California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA), by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), and by Proposition 204 (State share), and federal appropriations.

For FY 99, approximately \$73 million is available for ecosystem restoration projects; most of this money is federal Bay-Delta Act appropriations. CALFED's selection of projects can occur in one of two ways: through public solicitation or Designated Action. Designated Actions are projects which are recommended for funding by CALFED staff outside of the solicitation process, based on the following criteria: they are high priority actions in which substantial investment has already been made; funding would result in substantial progress toward ecosystem restoration goals; the projects are ready to go, and the implementing entities are identified; and the projects have the ability to leverage additional funds. Of the \$73 million available in FY 99, approximately \$55 million is being allocated to a number of Designated Actions which were recommended by CALFED's Integration Panel, came before the Ecosystem Round Table for review and approval, and were subsequently approved by CALFED's Policy Group. The remaining \$18 million will be used to fund projects obtained from the proposal solicitation process, which ended April 15, 1999.

Commission staff has been preparing memos describing and updating the status of the various Category III projects funded to date in the Delta area. This memo contains information from CALFED's Category III tracking memo, last updated in April 1999; it includes the Designated Actions approved by the Policy Group in February 1999. Future memos will include updates of these projects as well as summaries of projects selected from the proposal solicitation process in June 1999.

## CUWA - Solicitation 1 (1995) -- no projects relevant to Delta

### CUWA - Solicitation 2 (September 1996)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicants)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Sherman Island Levee Habitat Demonstration Project	DWR RD 341	Construct 2.5-acre in-channel island using dredged material stored on Sherman Island.	\$960,000	Design complete; applicants looking for additional funding.
Predicting the Evolution of Ecological Functions from Restoration of Diked Wetlands in the Delta	University of Washington	Two-year study will compare both naturally- and artificially-breached diked wetland sites to evaluate the rate, pattern, and long-term success of breached-dike restoration (as compared to natural marsh sites).	\$475,000	Contract amendment of additional \$100,172 to increase field work and include an element for bird habitat, Feb-99.
Yolo Bypass Study	DWR	Two-to-three year study will provide data and technical recommendations on Bypass modifications, due to strong evidence of mortality to salmon and other species from stranding.	\$256,000	<u>Project is complete.</u>
Decker Island Tidal Wetland Enhancement Pilot Project	Port of Sacramento	Establish 35-40 acres of tidal wetland on Decker Island, and conduct vegetation management activities to improve habitat on the remainder of the 70-acre site.	\$399,000	<u>Funding terminated.</u>
Inventory of Rearing Habitat for Juvenile Salmon in the North Delta and Lower Sacramento and Cosumnes Rivers	Amy Harris	Conduct a survey of rearing habitat for juvenile salmon in the north Delta. Attempt to distinguish races of juvenile salmon.	\$24,500	Project is 75% complete.
Prospect Island Habitat Restoration Project	Corps of Engineers DWR	Purchase Prospect Island and restore 1,300 acres of shallow water, tidal wetlands, and aquatic habitat.	\$9,150,000	Contract execution expected in near future. Environmental documentation expected mid-April 1999.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u> <u>Project complete.</u>
Prospect Island Monitoring Plan	DWR	Develop a monitoring plan for post-project monitoring of the Prospect Island project.	\$35,000	
Introduction of Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Research Program	San Francisco Estuary Institute	Develop regional monitoring program to provide early warning for eradication or mitigation. Assess priority for control of nonindigenous marsh plants. Public outreach on ballast water invasions. Examine post-invasion control mechanisms.	\$197,000	Project 90% complete.
Cosumnes River Preserve Acquisition	TNC	Acquire 4,356-acre Valensin Ranch property.	\$12,000,000	<u>Project complete.</u> (Escrow closed Dec-96.)

### **CALFED - Solicitation 1 (July 1997)**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicants)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Hastings Tract Fish Screen Feasibility Study	Hastings Island Land Company	Feasibility report on the installation of fish screens on gravity intake pipes and the relocation of the pipes from Cache Slough to Lindsey Slough	\$27,000	Contract being prepared.
Monitoring of Delta Contaminants	DeltaKeeper	One-year pilot study to establish baseline toxicity data at 12-14 sites throughout the Delta and eastside tributaries.	\$100,000	Contract signed Sep-98.
Effects of Wetlands Restoration on Methyl Mercury Production	U.C. Davis	Yield baseline data quantifying the levels of methyl mercury production from diked and reflooded wetlands.	\$546,171	Contract signed Sep-98.
Sedimentation Movement and Availability in the Delta	USGS	Monitor sediment transport at several sites to describe the movement of the sediment needed for habitat restoration.	\$1,046,200	Contract for \$587,000 signed Mar-98; contract for \$460,000 signed May-98.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Contaminant Effects on Delta Smelt	U.C. Davis	Two-year study will evaluate contaminant effects on smelt by quantifying the overall health, condition, and growth rate of smelt collected from various sites.	\$437,236	Contract signed Nov-98.
Jepson Prairie Restoration	Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Fdn.	Three-year program will restore shaded riverine aquatic habitat along portions of Barker Slough and Calhoun Cut, restore perennial grasslands, and design a habitat corridor connecting Jepson Prairie Preserve to Prospect Island.	\$244,801	Contract signed Jan-99.
Demonstration Project for Protection and Enhancement of In-Channel Islands	Association of Bay Area Governments	First phase (design) funded. Design four small restoration areas (Little Tinsley Island and Webb Tract Islands).	\$270,270	Contract signed Jul-98. Contractor selected.
Liberty Island Acquisition	USFWS	Acquire 4,750-acre Liberty Island.	\$8,577,000	Contract signed Mar-98.
Franks Tract Recreation Area Wetlands Habitat Restoration	Moffat & Nichol Engineers DPR DWR	First phase (design and environmental documentation) funded. Design four demonstration islands along Piper Slough to restore 45 acres of perennial aquatic habitat, shaded riverine aquatic habitat, and channel island and shoal habitat.	\$231,500	Contract signed Dec-98.
Tyler Island Levee Protection and Habitat Restoration Pilot Project	Habitat Assessment & Restoration Team, Inc.	Create/enhance shaded riverine aquatic and tidal perennial aquatic habitat along 2,000 feet of Georgiana Slough and along 3,000 feet of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River.	\$885,202	Contract signed Jul-98.
Cosumnes River Preserve Start-Up Stewardship and Restoration (see "Cosumnes Floodplain Acquisition and Restoration" [pg. 4])	TNC Wildlife Conservation Board	Conduct baseline monitoring of vegetation, wildlife, avian, and fish resources.	\$1,975,100	Scope under review.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Mokelumne River Setback Levee and Habitat Restoration	RD 2110	Construct a 3.4-mile levee set back approximately 400 feet from the existing levee, one mile downstream of its confluence with the Cosumnes River.	\$365,000	<u>Project on hold.</u>
<b>CALFED - Solicitation 2 (September 97)</b>				
<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Assessing Impacts of Selenium on Restoration of the Bay-Delta Eco-system	USGS	Three-year study evaluating selenium in the Bay-Delta to develop models useful for selenium management.	\$1,588,709	Contract signed Aug-98.
Cache Slough Shaded Riverine Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	RD 2060	First phase (design) funded. Design restoration for 2,000 ft. of levee bank where erosion has re-moved shaded riverine aquatic habitat.	\$85,000	Contract signed Jun-98.
Twitchell Island Subsidence Study	DWR USGS NHI Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Inc. Philip Williams & Associates Ltd.	First phase funded. Design and construct three large restoration pilot projects, totaling 600 acres, on Twitchell Island. Develop technical design recommendations for a restoration program to raise the surface level of subsided Delta islands.	\$3,583,000	Under review at DWR.
Culture of Delta Smelt	U.C. Davis	Establish a functional culture system to provide smelt embryos, larvae, juveniles, and adults for laboratory testing.	\$194,870	Contract signed Sep-98.
Cosumnes Floodplain Acquisition and Restoration	TNC	Acquisition of fee or easement interests on three properties (totaling 2,195 acres) contiguous to the Preserve.	\$3,500,000	<u>Project complete.</u>
Sediment Water Quality (Designated Action)	DFG RWQCB Delta Protection Commission	Develop criteria for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to permit reuse of material dredged in the Delta.	\$500,000	DFG contract signed. RWQCB contract sent to contractor for signature. DPC contract signed.

## CALFED - Solicitation 3 (May 1998)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Adult Fall-Run Chinook Salmon in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta	DFG	Monitor upstream movement of fall-run salmon in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta. Determine whether the installation of three temporary barriers at the head of Old River or low dissolved oxygen content significantly impede upstream migration.	\$285,000	Sent to contractor for signature Mar-99.
Cosumnes River Salmonid Barrier Program	Fishery Fdn. of California (FFC)	Install fish passage structures at two summer dams in the lower Cosumnes River. Upgrade fish ladders at Granlees Dam to current DFG hydraulic specifications.	\$188,255	Contract signed Mar-99.
Hastings Tract Fish Screen, Phase II: Construction	Hastings Island Land Company	Place fish screens on gravity intake pipes, and relocate the pipes from Cache Slough to Lindsey Slough.	\$271,250	Contract being drafted.
Rhode Island Floodplain Management and Habitat Restoration	DFG	First phase (survey) funded. Survey conditions to determine specific improvement needs. Plan to improve fish and wildlife carrying capacity on the 67-acre island by increasing the width, height, and stability of the island's breached levees.	\$25,000	Cooperative agreement sent for signature Jan-99.
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Acquisitions	USFWS	Acquire fee title interest in two properties totaling 658 acres located within the Refuge boundary.	\$1,900,000	Funds transferred to USFWS.
Fern-Headreach Tidal Perennial Aquatic and Shaded River Aquatic Conservation Project	Thomas Luckey	Exercise purchase option on the Fern-Headreach Island Complex, and commit the entire 168-acre complex to shallow water habitat (140 acres) and shaded riverine aquatic habitat (28 acres).	\$425,000	Contract terms under discussion.

<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Applicant(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
Cosumnes River Acquisition, Restoration, Planning, and Demonstration	TNC BLM Wildlife Conservation Board	Acquire fee title interest in a 300-acre property contiguous to the Cosumnes River Preserve.	\$750,000	Cooperative agreement submitted to USFWS for review Mar-99.
Biological Assessment of Green Sturgeon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed	U.C. Davis DFG	Two-year study to determine baseline information regarding the green sturgeons' biological requirements in the watershed.	\$241,000	Contract signed Mar-99.
Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass	Yolo Basin Fdn.	Develop a local implementation strategy for the ERPP's environmental restoration in the Yolo Bypass.	\$244,188	EPA/NFWF cooperative agreement Feb-99; contract expected Apr-99.
Lower Putah Creek Watershed Stewardship Plan	Solano County Dept. of Environmental Mgt.	Develop a community-based watershed plan for lower Putah Creek.	\$100,500	EPA/NFWF cooperative agreement Feb-99; contract expected Apr-99.
Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan	San Joaquin County RCD	Develop a community-based watershed plan for lower Mokelumne River.		
Traveling Film Festival	Independent Documentary Group S.F. Public Library S.F. Recreation and Park Dept.	Package and distribute a six-film Traveling Festival utilizing IDG's films about Bay and Delta habitats, wildlife, and restoration; travel throughout the Bay Area.	\$54,000	Contract signed Feb-99.
Discover the Flyway	Yolo Basin Fdn.	Two-year program will expand the current program to include curriculum and activities for middle school students and high school students, and expand trips and training sessions for the general public.	\$49,000	Contract signed Mar-99.
Bay-Delta Environmental Restoration Education Program	Water Education Foundation	Provide outreach to increase understanding of Bay-Delta watershed ecology, and relate this to long-term CALFED programs.	\$40,000	Contract signed Mar-99.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Water Challenge 2010	S.F. Bay Model Visitor Center Corps of Engineers	Traveling exhibit would allow visitors to manage Delta water for ecosystem restoration and other beneficial uses.	\$64,500	Contract signed Mar-99.
Developing a Methodology to Accurately Simulate the Entrainment of Fish	DFG	Purchase or lease a barge, mount a pipe, pump, and flume to hold a sampling net on board the barge, and conduct sampling of one of DWR's agricultural diversion siphons on Sherman Island.	\$200,000	Sent to contractor for signature, Mar-99.

#### **CALFED - Solicitation 4 (February 1999)**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Prospect Island Monitoring Project (Designated Action)	DWR	Establish a baseline to be used as a guide for development and implementation of future projects. Info would also be used for adaptive management.	\$885,737	Contract being drafted.
Cosumnes River Feasibility Study (Designated Action)	Corps of Engineers TNC	Study will identify, design, and estimate costs for environmental restoration and flood damage reduction opportunities along the Cosumnes River.	\$400,000	Contract being drafted.
Mokelumne River Feasibility Study (Designated Action)	Corps of Engineers East Bay MUD	Study will identify, design, and estimate costs for environmental restoration and flood damage reduction opportunities along the Mokelumne River.	\$400,000	Draft scope of services sent to EBMUD for concurrence, Mar-99.
McCormack-Williamson Tract Start-Up Stewardship and Levee Pilot Program (Designated Action)	TNC	TNC has requested funds for acquisition and stewardship of M-W Tract. Once the property is acquired, TNC will conduct baseline monitoring of riparian vegetation, wildlife, avian, and fish resources.	\$5,250,000 \$860,000	TNC expects to sign option agreement Apr-99.



<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Assessment of Ecological and Human Health Impacts of Mercury in the Bay-Delta Watershed (Designated Action)	DFG	Studies will be undertaken to better understand information that will lead to the reduction of mercury in resident fish tissues to levels that are not harmful to humans or wildlife.	\$3,700,000	Contract being drafted.